

*State of Idaho*  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Temporary Early Retiree Reinsurance Program to  
Provide Financial Relief for Employers**

BOISE ID (May 10, 2010) – Beginning June 1, 2010, small business employers may be eligible for reimbursement for medical claims for retirees age 55 and older who do not qualify for Medicare according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

“Currently, Americans who retire without employer-sponsored insurance and before they are eligible for Medicare have difficulty finding affordable plans that will not cause financial hardship,” says Bill Deal, Director of the Idaho Department of Insurance. “The Affordable Care Act will provide \$5 billion in financial assistance to employers to help them maintain coverage for early retirees.”

The amount of reimbursement to the employer plan is up to 80 percent of claims costs for health benefits between \$15,000 and \$90,000. Only medical expenses incurred after June 1, 2010, are eligible for reimbursement under this program. However, claims incurred between the start of the plan year and June 1 are credited towards the \$15,000 reimbursement threshold.

Employers can apply for the program through the Department of Health and Human Services. Carrier plans must be approved and will be subject to audits to assure fiscal integrity. Self-funded and insured plans can apply, including plans sponsored by private entities, state and local government, nonprofits, religious entities, unions and other employers.

This program ends on January 1, 2014, when early retirees will be able to choose from coverage options that will be available in the health insurance exchanges.

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